

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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TREASURY

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ATTN PARIS FOR MARK PRATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XC, US

SUBJECT: JULY 15 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. KOREA

IN RESTRAINED RESPONSE PRES SAYS COPTER SHOT DOWN IN NK
STRAYED INTO COMMUNIST AREA BY MISTAKE. ADDS PRIMARY IN-
TEREST IS HAVING INCIDENT NOT ESCALATE INTO CONFRONTATION,
ALSO ACCOUNT FOR CREW MEMBERS (OBERDORFER/SCOTT/WILSON/
AAR, WP;GLOBE;FOREMAN, NYT; MCCARTNEY, PHINQ; BACON, WSJ;
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RANDOLPH, CHITRIB). PRES CALLS FOR EARLY MTG W/ NK AT
PANMUNJOM TO DISCUSS INCIDENT/FACILITATE RETURN BODIES/
INJURED CREWMAN. AFFAIR IS SUBJECT COMMENT ON HILL WHERE
SOME LAWMAKERS QUESTION PRES' PULLOUT PLAN (OBERDORFER).
INCIDENT APPEARS LIKELY CONTRIBUTE TO DEBATE OVER PRES'
PROPOSED W/DRAWAL US TROOPS (FOREMAN). PRES SAYS SEES NO
REASON RE-EVALUATE PULLOUT DECISION (MCCARTNEY). CARTER
STRIVES PREVENT MIL PROBLEMS IN KOREA/POL PROBLEMS AT HOME
OVER INCIDENT. DOD OFFICIAL SAYS NK TONE SO FAR MILD
COMPARED TO OTHER INCIDENTS (BACON). PRES CARTER'S W/

DRAWAL PLANS UNCHANGED BY COPTER INCIDENT. CONFUSION CLOUDS SOME DETAILS AFFAIR, BUT US OFFICIALS AGREE CRAFT HAD LOST WAY (OLSON, SUN).

JCS' BROWN TELLS HASC PRES' PULLOUT PLAN IN CONFLICT W/ JCS IN "FUNDAMENTAL WAY," BUT REGARDS PLAN AS ACCEPTABLE RISK (WILSON, WP). BROWN CONFIRMS JCS RECOMMENDED MUCH SMALLER W/DRAWAL (WEINRAUB, NYT).

HOUSE ETHICS CMTE, PRODDER BY LACOVARA, WILL ACCELERATE KOREAN INFLUENCE-BUYING PROBE, AMID SIGNS SPEC COUNSEL WON POWER STRUGGLE W/ CHMN FLYNT (D-GA)(JACKSON, LAT 7/14). SARRO (WSTAR 7/14) SAYS LACOVARA'S CREDIBILITY FORCES ETHICS CMTE TAKE ACTION.

2. INDOCHINA

GWERTZMAN (NYT) QUOTES LTR FROM WB'S MCNAMERA THAT WILL REJECT FUTURE US AID IF CONGRESS PASSES FON ASSISTANCE BILL THAT PROHIBITS USE US FUNDS FOR LOANS TO SRV/OTHER COUNTRIES. ADDS MCN STATED THAT IF BILL BECOMES LAW, IDA WOULD NOT BE ABLE CONTINUE OPNS.

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3. JAPAN

USSR RELEASED 2 JAPANESE FISHING BOATS/CREWS 7/14. BOATS TAKEN 6/26, 7/4, RESPECTIVELY, WHILE FISHING IN DISPUTED WATERS OFF N JAPAN (REUTER TOKYO, PHINQ).

US ITC TERMINATES INVESTIGATION COLOR-TV IMPORTS FROM JAPAN/ACCEPTS PROPOSED CONSENT SETTLEMENT BETW GTE/MAJOR JAPANESE MFRS, WHEREBY ITC WILL CLOSELY MONITOR JAPANESE TV IMPORTS OVER NEXT 5 YRS (WSJ).

US LAUNCHED JAPAN'S 1ST WEATHER SATELLITE 7/14 FROM CAPE CANAVERAL. SATELLITE WILL HUNT FOR TYPHOONS/KEEP EYE ON PACIFIC AREA WEATHER (AP WP, NYT).

DOT TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE DUMPING JAPANESE MOTORCYCLES IN US, AFTER RECEIVING INFO FROM HARLEY-DAVIDSON CORP INDICATING SUCH PRACTICE (WSJ).

4. PHILIPPINES

CONVICTION 2 FIL NURSES FOR POISONING PATIENTS IN V A HOSPITAL CALLED "MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE" BY MARCOS' BROTHER PACIFICO, WHO HEADS DRIVE TO RAISE MONEY FOR NURSES' DEFENSE (WP).

5. AUSTRALIA

GOV-GEN SIR JOHN KERR RESIGNED 7/13, SAYING HE HAD FAITH-FULLY EXECUTED HIS OATH OF OFFICE/FOUND TENURE "MOST STIMULATING." FORMER PM WHITLAM, OUSTED BY KERR IN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE, HAD NO COMMENT. KERR WILL BE REPLACED BY SIR ZELMAN COWEN, LAW PROF/CHANCELLOR OF QUEENSLAND UNIV (COSTIGAN, WP; AP WSJ, PHINQ, SUN, BALT N-A, GLOBE).

6. CHINA
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WP'S MATHEWS (HK) REPORTS FORCED MIGRATION CHINESE YOUTHS TO COUNTRYSIDE BEING EASED FOLLOWING MAO'S DEATH. JAPANESE CORRESPONDENTS IN PEKING/US JOURNALISTS PASSING THRU CANTON HAVE BEEN TOLD SOME HIGH SCHOOL GRADS NOW SKIPPING FORMERLY MANDATORY PROGRAM/GOING DIRECTLY TO UNIV STUDY.

DESCRIBING ITS COTTON SUPPLY AS "EXTREMELY TIGHT," PRC HAS PURCHASED ANOTHER 105,600 BALES FROM US, FOR 29.8 MIL DOLS (AP, NYT).

7. THAILAND/MALAYSIA

LAT'S MCARTHUR (BANGKOK) REPORTS RTG, W/MALAYSIAN SUPPORT, PRESSING MIL OFFENSIVE TO REGAIN CONTROL BETONG CITY--LONG TIME SANCTUARY FOR COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS. REBELS REPORTEDLY OFFER LITTLE RESISTANCE. MCARTHUR DISCUSSES COMMUNIST GUERRILLA LEADER CHEN PENG'S HOLD OVER BETONG, PRIOR TO THAI-MALAYSIAN AGREEMENT TO JOINT OPNS ALONG BORDER, WHICH HAVE CURRENTLY AIDED MALAYSIA MORE THAN THAILAND BY KEEPING COMMUNIST GROUPS IN CHECK (7/14).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

8. JAPAN

CSM OPINES POL, NOT TECHNICAL REASONS, SEEM BE CONTROLLING CARTER'S DECISION NOT "SWAP" ALASKAN OIL W/JAPAN. BELIEVES ADMIN SELLING PUBLIC SHORT, AS PEOPLE CAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING "THAT OIL IS OIL"/"TAKING IT FROM ONE POCKET RATHER THAN ANOTHER FOR EFFICIENCY'S SAKE CAN MAKE SENSE." SAYS DECISION, AS SCHLESINGER PUT IT, SHOULD NOT BE "FOR ALL TIME," BUT MUST BE RECONSIDERED AS SITUATION CHANGES.
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9. KOREA

NYT SAYS CARTER RIGHT IN OFFERING "RAPID APOLOGY" FOR FACT US COPTER STRAYED FROM PLANNED COURSE/TERMS HANDLING OF SITUATION "PRUDENT, NOT WEAK." STATES UNLESS AFFAIR

INFLATED BEYOND ALL REASONABLE PROPORTIONS--AND NKOREANS
"HOLD THE KEY TO THAT"--IT SHOULD HAVE "NO EFFECT" UPON
5-YR W/DRAWAL SCHEDULE. ADDS US ASSURANCES TO SK SHOULD
GIVE IT "AMPLE CONFIDENCE" IN DEFENSE CAPABILITIES TO
DETER NK ATTACK.

WP FINDS COPTER INCIDENT "EMBARRASSED" CARTER RE W/DRAWAL
PLAN, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR PRES' "CONSPICUOUSLY LOW-KEY
RESPONSE." SEES CARTER'S REACTION TO INCIDENT AS SEEKING
PRESERVE "BUSINESS-AS-USUAL ATMOSPHERE THAT WOULD HELP
WIN SUPPORT FOR HIS TROOP-WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM"/THINKS
HE WAS RIGHT TO TREAT MATTER THAT WAY. URGES PRES EXPLAIN
WHY INCIDENT SHOULDN'T ALTER W/DRAWAL PLANS/WHY HE CHOSE
IGNORE JCS ADVICE ON W/DRAWAL, ADDING, "WE THINK THERE
IS A SATISFACTORY ANSWER."

SUN TERMS WH RESPONSE "ALMOST EXAGGERATED RESTRAINT,"
WHICH CANNOT BE MAINTAINED UNLESS NK RESPONDS IN CONCILIA-
TORY MANNER. SAYS KIM IL SUNG SHOULD UNDERSTAND HE IS
IN NO POSITION "TOY" W/US ON THIS MATTER/PRES CAN CHANGE
PLANS RE W/DRAWAL AS SITUATION DEMANDS. STATES COPTER'S
STRAYING OVER DMZ "SO TRANSPARENTLY INADVERTANT" THAT
THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR BLOODSHED. ADDS KIM "SHOULD TAKE
CARE NO MORE IS SPILLED."

CHITRIB TERMS NK'S ACTION "IRRATIONAL," REFUSING SPECULATE
ON WHETHER THERE IS CONNECTION BETW NK'S "DISPLAY OF
BARBARISM" AND US TROOP W/DRAWAL. SAYS IF KIM IL SUNG
WANTED CARTER CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT TROOPS "WE CAN HARDLY
THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO DO IT." ADDS US AGAIN THRUST
INTO "UNHAPPY POSITION" OF BARGAINING FOR A MAN'S FREEDOM
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W/ THOSE WHO HAVE "HEARTS OF LEAD SOLDIERS AND THE MINDS
OF A PHONOGRAPH."

GLOBE OPINES PRES' CAUTIOUS REACTION TO INCIDENT SHOULD
MINIMIZE ITS IMPACT ON "ORDERLY AND REASONABLE US POLICY
TOWARDS KOREA." SAYS INCIDENT MIGHT DEMONSTRATE THAT
US TROOPS POSE "ADDED IRRITANT IN A VOLATILE AREA," WHICH
GLOBE SEES AS REASON ENOUGH FOR AT LEAST SOME REDUCTION.
STATES AFTER GATHERING FACTS, CARTER MUST "SURELY" REVIEW
COMMITMENT TO W/DRAWAL/SATISFY HIMSELF THAT INCIDENT
DOESN'T REPRESENT "PATTERN OF BELLIGERENCE."

GUIDRY (WSTAR 7/14) REVIEWS HAZARDS DUTY IN KOREA. NOTES
CONTINUES TAKE TOLL US LIVES. COMPARES COPTER INCIDENT
W/TREE-CUTTING CASE OF LAST AUG.

STUART (CSM) OPINES PRES' CONTROVERSIAL PLAN TO PULL OUT
US TROOPS MAY COME UNDER NEW SCRUTINY DUE COPTER INCIDENT/
DISCLOSURE JCS RECOMMENDED MUCH SMALLER W/DRAWAL. BELIEVES
EVENTS MAY GENERATE PUBLIC PRESSURE ON WH TO RECONSIDER

DECISION.

CHINA

YOST (CSM) CONSIDERS SIGNIFICANT THAT DEL FROM PRC PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS VISITING US. POINTS OUT THIS IS 1ST GROUP CONCERNED W/INTL POLITICS/VISIT TAKING PLACE JUST AFTER CONSOLIDATION POWER IN HUA'S HANDS. DETECTS MESSAGE CONCERNED PRIMARILY W/US POLICY TO TAIWAN: NORMALIZATION RELS HAS NOT PROCEEDED AS ANTICIPATED IN SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE DUE US POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN; CANNOT PROCEED UNLESS POLICY CHANGED. OPINES VANCE WILL NOT FIND EASY TO RESPOND IF CONFRONTED BY PRC HARD LINE RE
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TAIWAN WHEN VISITS PEKING. BELIEVES BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT W/US' "TWO CHINAS" ACTIONS AND IS SIGNALING THAT IF SITUATION PERSISTS, RELS WILL NOT IMPROVE/MAY WITHER. ADMITS DISENGAGEMENT FROM TAIWAN WOULD NOT BE EASY; ADDS ECON DISENGAGEMENT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY. CONCLUDES GREAT POWER W/WORLD-WIDE INTERESTS EVENTUALLY HAS TO FACE FACTS OF LIFE.

RAY CLINE (WP) SAYS AMBIVALENT STYLE IN POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS PRESENTS US/FOREIGN OBSERVERS W/PUZZLEMENT OVER WHAT ADMIN INTENDS IN PRACTICAL TERMS. STATES STD METHOD IS TO ENUNCIATE HI-MINDED POLICY OF GREAT SIMPLICITY/MORAL VIGOR, THEN SHADE/OBSCURE WHAT HI PRINCIPLES MEAN IN PRACTICE. REVIEWS ADMIN'S CHINA STAND. OPINES WOULD BE IMMORAL TO CONSIGN US-ORIENTED/PLURALIST/FREE-ENTERPRISE TAIWAN TO DICTATORIAL CP CONTROL. POINTS OUT ACCEPTING PEKING'S TERMS FOR FULL NORMALIZATION WOULD UPSET STRATEGIC BALANCE IN NE ASIA. ADDS JAPANESE/KOREANS/CHINESE WOULD NEVER BELIEVE POLICY THAT SOMEHOW US WILL ASSURE ASIANS OF INTENT PROTECT TAIWAN'S SECURITY DESPITE CANCELLATION FORMAL TREATY GUARANTEEING ITS DEFENSE. CONCLUDES QUESTION IS WHETHER WISER HEADS IN GOVT WILL PREVAIL OVER PRO-PRC IDEOLOGUES WHEN FINAL DECISION REACHES PRES. VANCE

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